REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claim 2 has been editorially amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error. New claims 13-19 have been added. Claims 1-19 are now pending in the application. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the remarks presented herein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Thandiwe

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Thandiwe (U.S. Patent Number 5,594,319). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant's claimed invention relates to an information terminal comprising an information apparatus and a battery pack. The information apparatus comprises a device load having an input device, a first switch, an apparatus memory, a communication section, and a second switch. The battery pack comprises a battery and a battery memory. When the first switch is turned on, the communication section compares a first password stored in the apparatus memory with a second password stored in the battery memory. When the first password is identical to the second password as a result of the comparison, the communication section turns on the second switch so as to supply electric power from the battery pack to the device load. When the passwords differ, the communication section turns off the second switch.

Turning to the cited art, Thandiwe teaches a battery pack with theft deterrent circuitry which disables the battery pack from unauthorized use. Thandiwe's Figure 1 shows a battery pack (10) connected to a host device (12). The battery pack (10) consists of a microcontroller

circuit (20), a switch (16), a battery cell (14) and a current sense element (32). The microcontroller (20) further includes a communication circuit (24), a memory (26), a timer (30) and a logic (28). The battery pack (10) receives a data word from the host device (12) upon connection to the host device (12) (column 2, lines 20-23). Connection to the host device (12) is detected using a current sense element (32) (column 2, lines 43-46). After connecting, "[t]he battery pack (10) then prompts the host device (12) to send a data word, and in turn, the host device (12) prompts the user to enter a data word. The host device (12) then communicates the entered data word to the battery pack (10)" (column 2, lines 48-51). The user is prompted by the host device (12) to enter a data word "until either the user enters the correct data word, or the battery pack disables itself" (column 2, lines 51-55). The switch (16) is closed as a default, and disables the battery pack (10) when opened. "The data word [entered by the user] is compared to a password stored in a memory (26) by ... logic circuit (28). Upon a predetermined number of occurrences of the data word differing from the password, a means for controlling the switch ... will open the switch (16)" (column 2, lines 28-34). When a predetermined number of incorrect data words is entered by [the] user, the switch (16) is opened, thereby disconnecting power from the host device (column 2, lines 35-42).

However, there is no teaching in Thandiwe of an information apparatus comprising a first switch, an apparatus memory storing a password, and a second switch switching on/off the electric power for the device load supplied by the battery pack on the basis of a control signal from the communication section. Thandiwe only discloses a battery pack with theft deterrent circuitry, where the battery pack (10) shuts itself off if a user entered data word entered in a host

device (12) does not match the password stored in memory (26) a predetermined number of times. The host device (12) in Thandiwe is not disclosed to include any of a first switch, an apparatus memory, and a second switch. Thandiwe's switch (16) is located within the battery pack (10), and not within an information apparatus (host device (12)). Furthermore, Applicant's claimed invention stores a first password in the apparatus memory, while Thandiwe's host device (12) prompts a user to enter a data word each time the battery pack (10) is connected to the host device (12). There is no indication in Thandiwe of using an apparatus memory, within an information apparatus, to store a first password which is compared to a second password stored in a battery memory, as recited in Applicant's claim 1. Examiner also admits in paragraph 4 of the Office Action that Thandiwe does not specifically teach the information apparatus comprising a second switch, and that it is a **battery** in Thandiwe that comprises a switch, not a host device/information apparatus (emphasis added). At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicant's claim 1 is patentable over Thandiwe. Applicant's claims 3, 5, 6, 11 and 12 are dependent claims including all of the limitations of independent claim 1, which, as established above, distinguishes over Thandiwe. Therefore, claims 3, 5, 6, 11 and 12 are patentably distinguished over Thandiwe for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 2, Applicant's claimed invention relates to an information terminal comprising an information apparatus and a battery pack. The information apparatus comprises a device load having an input device, a first switch, an apparatus memory, a communication

section, a load power supply, and a second switch. The battery pack comprises a battery and a battery memory. When the first switch is turned on, the communication section compares the first password stored in the apparatus memory with a second password stored in the battery memory. When the first password is identical to the second password as a result of the comparison, the communication section turns on the second switch so as to supply electric power from the load power supply to the device load. When the passwords differ, the communication section turns off the second switch.

As discussed above, there is no teaching in Thandiwe of an information apparatus comprising a first switch, an apparatus memory storing a password, and a second switch switching on/off the electric power for the device load supplied by the battery pack on the basis of a control signal from the communication section. Furthermore, there is also no teaching in Thandiwe of a load power supply in the information apparatus which is switched by a second switch to supply electric power to a device load based on comparison of the first password to the second password by the communication section. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicant's claim 2 is patentable over Thandiwe. Applicant's claims 4 and 7-10 are dependent claims including all of the limitations of independent claim 2, which, as established above, distinguishes over Thandiwe. Therefore, claims 4 and 7-10 are patentably distinguished over Thandiwe for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

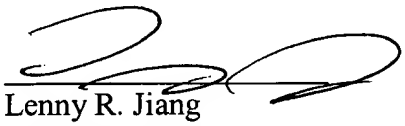
Newly Added Claims

Claims 13-19 are newly added by this Amendment and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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